

The Sun

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts and illustrations for publication will be so kind as to send them to the office in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

TELEPHONE, BUREAU 2200.

Mr. Ryan as Aircraft Board Head.

JOHN D. RYAN at the head of the Advisory Aircraft Board may not be for our ships of the air all that CHARLES M. SCHWAB in his post can be for our ships of the sea. SCHWAB knows all about building ships. Perhaps RYAN doesn't know anything at all about airplanes. But, to speak in the bigger sense, who among us does? RYAN may not know anything about motors, may not know anything about machinery. Nevertheless, it must be the uniform opinion of all those who have followed the career of MR. RYAN that he is one of our most successful administrators of big affairs, possesses all the qualities of triumphant leadership of men, knows how to get things done and to get them done right.

With his gifts of leadership and achievement MR. RYAN ought to be able to command the cooperation of the man or the men best fitted to design and work out motors, planes and other equipment of air fighters. He ought to be able to get out of those men the very best that is in them. He ought to be able to place at their disposal all the material and all the labor they need for quick results and sure results. These are the very fruits of administrative genius and superlative leadership.

Getting things done has been, with few exceptions, the cardinal weakness of the national Administration in this war. Great policies have been conceived, great programmes have been adopted, but in only rare instances have the men been put on the job who could carry out such undertakings. One of the most heartening signs of the day is the obvious awakening of President Wilson to the truth that the best thought out plan in creation isn't worth a rap, in practical effect, until it is executed. For a whole year we had many fine principles and big plans without execution. Now, with a Schwab on the job of getting us ships built and with a Ryan on the job of getting us airplanes built, each in his own way, we seem to have entered the era of delivering the goods.

This is the best thing that has happened yet in our war programme against the Prussian fighting machine of marvellous results.

The Polygamy Propaganda in Germany.

The revival of polygamy in Germany is seriously advocated by an influential scientific journal published in that country known as the *Politico-Anthropological Monthly Review*. In an important article on the subject of marriage after the war this publication insists that the only way to overcome the shortage of German fathers is to allow every German to marry as many women as he can care for, and that this proposition demands early consideration on the part of the Imperial Government. "Germany," we are told, "has lost a considerable portion of its noblest racial blood. This is a patriotic idea. A decent form would have to be found for this kind of polygamy, which is the only way to combat the reduction of the birth rate."

Has religion perished off the face of the earth in Germany? When the advancement of woman is making headway everywhere else, can it be possible that woman's degradation, in the form of polygamy, is to become a fundamental policy of the German Empire? Are the Roman Catholics of Germany indifferent to such an astounding proposition as that which we have mentioned? Are the German Protestants blind and the Teutonic Hebrews deaf? Has German materialism run mad in order to promote the propagation of man on a larger scale than is practicable with monogamic marriage?

The religious considerations against the restoration of polygamy are conclusive; but apart from religion, the experience of mankind has demonstrated the superiority of monogamy. LECKY, the Irish historian, in his famous chapter on the position of women in his "History of European Morals," found "ample grounds for maintaining that the lifelong union of one man and of one woman should be the normal or dominant type of intercourse between the sexes. We can prove," he said, "that it is on the

whole most conducive to the happiness and also to the moral elevation of all parties."

The proposed return to polygamy in Germany therefore finds no more sanction in morals than it does in religion. It is a monstrous project, too monstrous to warrant serious discussion if it were put forward anywhere else but in Prussia. Since the outbreak of the present war, however, it may not safely be asserted that any measure is too shocking for adoption by Prussian leaders.

Is Germany Sick of Gas?

The Prussian Minister of War, General von STRIN, informed the main committee of the Reichstag that his gallant chemists are now manufacturing an invisible gas; "the enemy has not caught up to us." He boasted also that it was the Germans who originated the employment of carbonic oxide gas in the war, "and the enemy soon followed." He wished the Reichstag to understand, however, that, thanks to the German masks, the enemy gas attacks in the present battle amounted to but little. He closed his dissertation on gas with a peculiar statement:

"No country will agree to renounce the use of gas. It is therefore necessary for our experts to labor continuously to keep us ahead."

Even the members of the Reichstag must have smiled at the first sentence here quoted. The use of gas was prohibited by the Hague convention of 1864, Germany signing and ratifying the agreement; and it was believed until the spring of 1915 that no civilized nation bound by that agreement would use gas or any other form of poison in warfare. We may even believe that Germany had qualms—the last wriggling of a moribund conscience—about using gas in battle, for it was not until after its bitter rebuffs at the second battle of Ypres that the German Generals called for the four products of the home laboratories. From that hour on, and that was three years and a day before Von STRIN's remarkable statement, the Prussian has used poison gas and he has never denied that he took the heinous initiative. The Allies have used it, and properly so, in reprisal.

What is the significance of the War Minister's statement that "no country will agree to renounce the use of gas." Have there been murmurings inside Germany from the relatives of soldiers with burned lungs? Or has news come to Germany through its acute spy system that some chemist in one of the allied countries has worked out a gas far more deadly than the Germans have been able to make? Is Von STRIN angling for an invitation from some humane neutral to join in the restoration of the old rules of war, now that Germany has been bitten with her own teeth?

General Von STRIN is literally right, after all, but not in quite the way he means. No allied country is likely to quit the use of gas, for the reason that if the Prussian warriors swore to renounce the barbarity the Allies would know that they did not mean to keep their word.

The Sourdough Rebellion.

The importance of the insurrection in Alaska, news of which has just reached us from the Provost Marshal General's office in Washington, is not to be underestimated.

The facts are simple. On the enactment of the selective draft law the registration of men liable to military service was carried out in our northernmost territory as it was elsewhere. In all 9,000 Alaskans enrolled.

Following this, the Provost Marshal General, bearing the name of Chowvoo, examined the map of Alaska, studied the census returns, and, after deliberation, decided that on account of the inaccessibility of many of the settlements in the Territory the draft should not be applied to the American residents therein established, and that to them should be denied the privilege of joining their brothers in the national armies.

This decision, autocratic and indefensible, was made known to the law-abiding people of Alaska forthwith, and they, with a praiseworthy insistence on their rights as freemen and citizens, after taking counsel together, refused to submit to it. With the same vigor that characterized the peace loving inhabitants when they felled the efforts of the mob to lynch Sonny SARRIN, the defenders of public order banded themselves together to conserve their military privileges, and notified Chowvoo that unless the draft was carried out in Alaska as it was elsewhere they would march on Washington, depose the Provost Marshal General, and establish in his place a man who would not disregard their rights.

They will be sent to the cantonments to acquire final polish. We know what kind of soldiers they will make. They will submit cheerfully to discipline, endure hardships uncomplainingly, and acquit themselves honorably; and Provost Marshal General Chowvoo may be mightily glad they refused to be cheated out of their rights by the laziness of the War Department.

The Swiss and the Hun.

Once more Switzerland is in the "energetic protest" stage of discussion with Germany. The sinking of the Sardinia, laden with cereals destined for Geneva by way of Cote and the short cut route through France, continues to stir the Swiss people profoundly. There is developing a minority attitude among them with specifications of retaliatory acts invitingly open to mobilization in the event of further brutalities or in default of German atonement for those already committed.

Besides being made a base for Teutonic espionage from the beginning of the war, Switzerland has also become a storage warehouse for German goods pending post bellum freedom of export. In addition to that, she has long been a receiving hospital for German war wreckage—a harbor of refuge for tens of thousands of German women and children, for German deserters and German slackers, for all the wretched human flotsam and jetsam cast adrift and starving in the wake of the Teutonic war chariots.

All these people she has been feeding and caring for from her own scant supplies. Now Kultur has set about cutting off a large portion of those supplies at the source.

What are the Swiss going to do about it? They talk of rounding up the herds of unhappy creatures and turning them loose in Germany again; they talk of cutting down the rations of over 80,000 German children they are feeding; they talk of doing this and that and the other thing which they know very well their kindly, humane hearts will never let them do. As a matter of fact, they will do nothing. They are helpless. So they go knocking at the iron gates of the barbarian headquarters, and there they stop and must stop, for, like the Hollanders, over their heads hangs the ever imminent brute threat of Belgium's horrors.

Thus it is that for the Swiss, like so many of the smaller nations of the earth, there is naught to do save pray for a speedy coming of the day when the foul beast shall be slain and a tortured world delivered from his ravages.

What Happened at Selcheprey.

It is announced in Washington that the Americans killed in the German attack near Selcheprey on April 20 numbered fewer than twelve, and that the injured did not exceed a score.

We trust it is not disloyal to utter the hope that some day the War Department may consent to tell the country exactly what happened near Selcheprey.

The Germans say a sanguinary encounter took place there in which their troops conducted a successful enterprise, capturing nearly 200 Americans. They do not minimize their achievement by accusing their opponents of cowardice, but they do charge our troops with lack of military skill. The French have complimented our forces on their behavior, and have praised a number of individuals among them for their conduct under fire.

Newspaper correspondents have been permitted to send to this country despatches in which the vigor of the attack and the valor of the defense have been recounted.

The exploits of Salvation Army canteen attendants, army surgeons, stretcher bearers and others have been told at length.

Yet nobody in this country knows from any official announcement that anything out of the ordinary happened at Selcheprey; and the reticence that rules in Washington on this subject is inspiring doubt in the authenticity of the report that there were any Americans in that interesting country.

Who Sank the St. Paul?

The steamship St. Paul sank at her pier yesterday, immediately after coming out of dry dock, through the act of an alien enemy or a traitorous American, or because of the gross carelessness of some responsible individual.

Whoever is responsible should be punished as severely as the law allows. There must be no tenderness for the person who perpetrated this deed, if it was done deliberately, or for the negligent officer who took the ship to her berth in improper condition, if it turns out on investigation that this occurred.

If the St. Paul was damaged by design, it seems plain that the authors of the deed hoped to sink her in the channel, where she would prove a bothersome, if not dangerous, obstruction to navigation. This was averted only by the fact that she remained afloat until she reached the wharf at which she was to have been tied up.

It is reported that the ship can be raised and repaired. We hope so. Eleven thousand tons of ship are needed now. But, regardless of this, the individuals guilty of her mishap, whether they are enemies of the United States or merely incompetents, must be brought to justice.

tion of workers, not merely of investigators and students of conditions. Perhaps the first announcements of the purpose of the elaborate undertaking, and the make quite clear the extent to which actual practical relief was to be the function of the fifty-seven members of the commission under the capable direction of Dr. JOHN H. FINLEY. If relief and not research work is the main feature of the programme, and if the numerous commissioners are to remain on the field and on the job, then disappears the only reason for criticism, namely, on the ground of expediency and economy of war effort.

In to-day's German wireless the following statement appears: "From papers found on American aviators who were shot down it has been proved that they were not only ignorant of the existence of our hospital ships, but also of the fact that they were carrying wounded soldiers."—Statement of the British Admiralty.

As hospital ships are favorite game of German submarines it is difficult to see how American aviators would contribute to their safety by traveling aboard such vessels. As a matter of fact, they didn't; the statement is a plain German lie, suggested probably by the circumstance that numerous Americans who went to France to help the American aviators subsequently joined the fighting forces, wherein they are not more exposed to the fury of the Hun than they had been in their original occupation, but enjoy the privilege of striking back.

Perhaps the War Department would simply convey to Philadelphia's politicians the idea that it is a Liberty Bell, not a License Bell, which it cherishes in Independence Hall.

At Achiet le Grande there were two hospitals where several nights ago shells began falling. The orderlies were killed and the operating theatre was destroyed. The hospitals fell back to Nuchillers, only to be bombed there that night by airmen.—From the British front.

"What have I not done," asked the Kaiser despairingly, "to preserve the world from these horrors?"

One JOHN DOWLING has been arrested on complaint of Miss ANNA ZELICK, Miss ELIZABETH SCHMALTZ and JOSEPH VOLMET, charged with tearing a British flag from the Shakespeare statue in Central Park. It was MR. SHAKESPEARE who asked "What's in a name?"

It is announced that headquarters of the textile branches of the Quartermaster's Corps will be moved from Washington to this city as soon as possible. Mr. SCHWAB's first act was to get the head offices of the ship construction establishment out of the national capital. Is the Potomac air considered unhealthful for husters?

Not even the name "Liberty cage" could make sauerkraut aesthetic.

We do not yet know the amount of indemnity we shall win.—The Secretary of the German Imperial Treasury.

It will be as valuable as the hole in an imaginary pretzel.

SEE YOUR DRAFT BOARD.

A Man Liable to Conscription Who Wants to Volunteer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I am Irish and have declared my intentions of becoming an American citizen, having my first papers. I went to the Navy Yard to enlist as a seaman, but they would not take me. I spent three and a half years in the English Naval Reserve and three years in merchant service. I am in this draft and I want to volunteer where I should be of most service, and having experience I wanted to go on a transport or in the merchant service. It would be a good plan to save time, effort and paper stock in the writing of letters, which kind of writing is done by every one.

As a simple way for any one to increase his or her speed in writing, I suggest that without working the finger rest, but with the use of a simple expedient free to all and available alike to penmen and to typewriter operators, I suggest that the sign which is easily scripted and is found on every typewriter keyboard, be used henceforth not only in connection with figures to indicate fractions, as 7/16, but also to represent the word "and." CONSTANT READER.

BROOKLYN, April 25.

STOP USING WHEAT.

The National Housewives League Moves for Conservation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The following action was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the National Housewives League on April 24:

Every ounce of available wheat is needed to win the war; be it said.

Resolved, That the executive committee of the National Housewives League request each member of the League throughout the country to abstain from the use of wheat until next harvest and to conduct active propaganda on this measure.

JENNIE DREWET HEATH.

NEW YORK, April 25.

The Brilliant Rainbow Haze of Kentucky.

From the Charlotte Chronicle. The lovely and elegant home of that crown prince of hospitality, the big hearted and noble soul, John H. Wheeler, was a radiant scene of enchanting loveliness, for Capt. Hadden brought one of his finest officers to the court of Hymene; for the lovely Miss Alice, the beautiful daughter of Mr. Wheeler, and his refined and most excellent wife, who is a lady of rarest charms and sweetest graces, dedicated her life to the service of the United States.

Brilliant and gifted and talented son of that ripe scholar and renowned educator, the learned Professor Osgood, the very able and successful president of the female college.

THAT SAWED OFF SHOTGUN.

It Served So Well Against Stage Robbers That General Pershing Is Using It Against the Hun.

Even to-day in the Sierra Nevada where little mining camps send out gold dust by stage to be carried from the nearest railway station to the San Francisco mint a shotgun messenger rides with the driver if there is a gold shipment in the box. The barrel of the gun is shortened for the sake of convenience in handling in close quarters, and its efficiency for its particular work is not lessened, as it is used only to quiet a robber who has suddenly appeared close by the side of the stage, or to bring a tree or rock command, "Throw down the box!"

The messenger, as he is called where he is known, never guard or gun man, carries his gun across his knees where danger seems light, or lightly in his hands passing through bad spots. His job is to shoot any one so careless as to come out from behind a tree or rock to the side of the stage, and shoot before the intruder gets the drop. Mountain folk who want to take a stage between stations make themselves conspicuous in the middle of the road before the stage rolls into sight.

If a messenger fails to shoot a robber before the latter has him covered the box is thrown down—usually. There was one instance where the rule was not followed which old stage drivers in the Sierra Nevada still talk about to-day. On a stage out from Bodys was a passenger, a butler, a cook and the Carson mail. The messenger was alert, his sawed off shotgun lightly balanced in his hands passing the danger spots, or resting on his knees where the cover seemed to be too thin to conceal a robber by the side of the road.

On one good stretch the messenger gripped his gun between his knees while both hands sought in the pockets of his heavy coat for the makings. The unexpected happened; out of a patch of straggly sage brush two men leaped, one to the bridge of the off leader and the other to the side of the stage. The had the drop on both messenger and driver.

"Throw down the box!" commanded the man at the fore wheel of the stage.

The messenger thought one-quarter of a second—he was precise in telling that he had a second's time, and he was out having to invite a bullet from moving his gun or hand, he pulled the trigger of the right barrel. So many things happened in the remaining three-quarters of the first second after the command that they make a long and lovely story to any listeners to an old stage driver tell it to-day.

The short of the story is that the shot shredded the ears of the leaders, and generally speaking those mules did the rest. The six mules bounded ahead, startled and indignant. The robber at the bridge was kicked in the head and fell off leader, off swinging and off wheeling, so his pistol arm was not good, and the robber at the stage wheel was run over by the rear wheels, and his arm was not good. The six mules, the driver has sworn to this, did the next mile in four minutes flat, and there was no time when the driver told the stage mules were on the road at the same time.

"It was sure some lucky escape," the messenger admitted, "but I never truly made up with them lead mules. They never seemed to relish me after that little sawed off spoke to them. Touché, sort of critters, mules is any."

DO AWAY WITH "THE."

A Scheme to Save Paper and Perhaps Time, but Not Temper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In these times of saving, acceleration and speed, the national as well as for personal purposes it would be a good plan to save time, effort and paper stock in the writing of letters, which kind of writing is done by every one. As a simple way for any one to increase his or her speed in writing, I suggest that without working the finger rest, but with the use of a simple expedient free to all and available alike to penmen and to typewriter operators, I suggest that the sign which is easily scripted and is found on every typewriter keyboard, be used henceforth not only in connection with figures to indicate fractions, as 7/16, but also to represent the word "and." CONSTANT READER.

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Brilliant and gifted and talented son of that ripe scholar and renowned educator, the learned Professor Osgood, the very able and successful president of the female college.

Progress of the Domestic Arts on Hat Ornamentation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Recently I saw a novel hat ornament, a gilded (or is it gilt?) chicken foot, sewed on, upright, to the crown of a picture hat; no other trimming.

Such things as chicken wings, heads and tails we have long known as hat ornaments, but this is a new departure. I have it on good authority that next season it will be drumsticks, chicken livers and second joints.

All right, let 'em come; we'll wear 'em. We'll wear anything in style.

O. U. FERMAT.

NEW YORK, April 25.

The Street Cries of New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Among the street cries of New York, "I cash clothes" and "Hage and bottles," I believe, have not been in the lead. When having no other means some fifteen years ago I counted twenty-two street hawkers of all kinds passing my window between 9 A. M. and 4:30 P. M. The locality in those days was Lower New York.

THE TRIP TO PALESTINE.

An Authoritative Explanation of the Purpose of the Commission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The editorial article in THE SUN of April 22 relative to the Red Cross Commission to Palestine suggests the need of explanation. Possibly insufficient information was given as to the purposes of the commission. The editorial article commented on the investigatory side of the commission's work, suggesting that probably this was a laborious method of appraising the needs of Palestine. The history of the commission is as follows:

The commission, composed of fifty-seven people, left about a month ago for Palestine via Cape Town. Dr. Finley is sailing immediately to head the commission, going directly to Palestine via England, expecting to reach there about the same time as the main portion of the commission.

The commission is composed almost entirely of doctors and social workers. Several business men are also included. It sailed under the direction of Dr. Ward, who, as your article points out, was professor of surgery in the American University at Beirut, Syria. Dr. Ward has recently been in this country, and the appointment of the commission followed a very extensive series of conferences between him and the Red Cross officials in Washington. He came back to America by way of England and discussed the entire matter there with the British and American governments. It is interesting to know that the war council in undertaking this work.

It is the intention of the commission to undertake actual relief work in Palestine, doing everything it can to alleviate the conditions there, and, in addition to its practical work, to educate the people, to bring about the transition to more modern surgical and medical methods and sanitation. The commission will, of course, observe conditions while conducting its work there and will outline to the war council a plan for its continuing task. It is expected that a large part of the personnel will remain in Palestine for a considerable period.

The ship on which the commission sailed carried 800 tons of freight, consisting of the equipment necessary to give a start to the work. Another ship is being loaded at the present time to supply the commission with additional material.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 25.

RAILROAD EQUIPMENT.

Dangers Involved in Delaying Orders for Rolling Stock.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I was intensely interested in the leading editorial article in THE SUN of April 23, headed "Cars to Haul Coal."

It seems to me that the warning note you sound should be heard all over the country. Those who are familiar with the coal situation know that the whole trouble has been due to lack of equipment, and there is no doubt but what the causes for this lack of equipment are fully understood.

In spite of all the lessons which should have been learned from past experience in the shipbuilding, airplane and other government department, I believe that the railroad administration is travelling along the same road to delay in the furnishing of equipment which will cause untold privation and misery during the coming winter.

I am credibly informed that the railroad administration has held up the purchase of any cars or locomotives until standard specifications and designs of the same can be got out, and that instead of going ahead and purchasing equipment of any of the well known, well tried and most largely used types, and getting the cars of coal running from the mines during the time when this can best be done, precious time is being wasted until these plans and specifications are issued.

I understand that in one of the proposed standard types of locomotives the height of the locomotive is so great that it would not clear in the Hooseo Tunnel, and it is also my understanding that when these locomotives are delivered, if they fail to meet local conditions over the lines on which they will have to run, changes in the locomotives will be made after delivery.

I believe that this delay will have the same evil effect next winter that the delay in choosing the best known aeroplane motor and the best known machine gun has had on our preparedness for battle with the Germans. It seems to me that this is no time to experiment and design new types, when well known and tried types can be had immediately.

A. E. C.

TEX., April 25.

The Sentiment Is Admirable.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: How is this one?

To beat the Hun,
The son of a gun,
We must and will
Give our Liberty gun.

JAMAICA, L. I., April 25. G. M. M.

Poetic Message to Wilhelm.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Hold on, Kaiser's doom.
Honor's doom.
NEW YORK, April 25. DON.

Take Your Choice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: How is this one?

A bomb or a bond in your home?
FORTH AMBOS, N. J., April 25. J. H.

A Quotation Improperly Credited to the Soldiers' Paper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The communication signed "V." on the editorial page of THE SUN of April 23 entitled "The National Guard in Its Relation to the National Service" is as unfortunate in its quotation as it is untrue, and tends to antagonize different branches of the United States service.

The communication states that the Gas Attack killed the official paper of the Twenty-seventh Division, now at Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, S. C.

One hears it whispered—though not printed even in the smallest print—that in the judgment of the New York National Guard troops at Spartanburg are not, after six months training, as far along toward being dependable soldiers as the New York troops (also from the Gas Attack) at Yaphank, N. Y